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## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

### AMERICAN WILD FLOWERS—A NEW WORK FOR DESIGNERS.



AMERICAN WILD FLOWERS, a collection of twenty photogravure plates of familiar American wild flowers, birds and butterflies, for artists, designers and manufacturers, reproduced from studies and compositions by H. Kuenemann. Price \$12.

Anyone familiar with our native Flora must have observed the great beauty and variety of the ideas and suggestions for designs of all kinds. Designers

and is calculated to supply the want of artists in decorative design.

The aboriginal flora, in all countries, is the basis of the national style of ornament. For example, the palm is the leading *motif* in Persian and Indian art, the lotus in the Egyptian, the honeysuckle and acanthus in the Greek, Roman and Renaissance, and the buttercup, wild rose and daisy in the Gothic, the chrysanthemum, wisteria, and so on in Chinese and Japanese art. From this consideration it is fair to assume that the purely American style of art must be based upon the native flowers indigenous to American soil, and it is amongst our own familiar flowers that we must search for the *motif* if we wish to found a national style of decorative art.

To appeal to commercial interest it may be said that even in



DECORATIVE AMERICAN WILD FLOWERS. SUBJECT—MORNING-GLORIES AND WILD ROSES.

and manufacturers are prone to harp upon the same motive year after year in the production of decorative fabrics; whereas, here is a mine of original ideas lying at their very doors, which, to a very large extent, has not been made use of. Mr. Kuenemann's sketches comprise over fifty varieties of American plants. They are represented in naturalistic style, as he has observed them in actual growth. Of course, many of the plants are cosmopolitan, being alike common to the continents of America and Europe; such as buttercups, daisies, etc., but nevertheless there are many plants peculiar to this country, such as the dogwood, catalpa, tulip tree, trailing arbutus, mountain laurel, etc., which seem to have been quite overlooked by artists and designers. At the present moment, when floral ideas are in demand, the publication of such a work is exceedingly opportune,

the United States the experiment of representing peculiarly American flowers has been attended with success, and as an illustration, the "dogwood" pattern in printed silks has been universally admired. Mr. Kuenemann proves himself to be an artist of ability. He has aimed to give as exact and truthful representations as are consistent with artistic expression. His designs prove that he has studied the habits and growth of the various plants illustrated, and for this reason those designers who are prevented by circumstances from studying them in their native haunts may, in the work referred to, realize the great beauty and variety of American wild flowers, so as to be able to represent them in suitable and characteristic attitudes and developments. We recommend the work to artists, amateurs, designers and decorators.